

alt. cont. may be integrally formed from the material employed to provide the top surface. In alternative configurations, such as shown in Fig. 2, the ears 19 may be provided by one or more separately provided members that are connected and assembled to the outer cover, to the top surface, in between the outer cover and top surface, or in various fixedly attached combinations of such assemblies. In certain embodiments, the fastener of the present invention may be attached to the ear portion of the outer cover.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 19 to read as follows:

alt. Alternatively, as representatively illustrated in Figure 3, the diaper 1 may include one or more attachment panels 23 to which the fasteners 20 are configured to releasably engage. For example, when the fasteners 20 include hook material as illustrated, the diaper 1 may also include corresponding attachment panels 23 which may comprise complementary loop elements on the outward facing surface in the first waist region 50 and second waist region 51 of the diaper 1. The attachment panels 23 may include a woven fabric, a nonwoven fabric, a knitted fabric, a perforated or apertured layer, or the like, or a combination thereof. For example, a suitable material for the attachment panels 23 can be composed of a 2 bar, warp knit fabric of the type available from Guilford Mills, Inc., Greensboro, North Carolina under the trade designation #34285, as well as other knit fabrics.

Alternatively, a pattern unbonded nonwoven material may be suitably used for an attachment panel, as described in U.S. Patent No. 5,858,515 issued January 12, 1999 to Stokes, et al.